

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The present invention provides a protein having an A chain of a ricin-like toxin, a B chain of a ricin-like toxin and a heterologous linker amino acid sequence, linking the A and B chains. The linker sequence  
5 contains a cleavage recognition site for a disease specific protease such as a cancer, fungal, viral or parasitic protease. The invention also relates to a nucleic acid molecule encoding the protein and to expression vectors incorporating the nucleic acid molecule. Also provided is a method of  
10 inhibiting or destroying mammalian cancer cells, cells infected with a virus, a fungus, or parasite, or parasites utilizing the nucleic acid molecules and proteins of the invention and pharmaceutical compositions for treating human cancer, viral infection, fungal infection, or parasitic infection.

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